

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (new): A safety device for a motor vehicle having a driver's seat whose sitting position can be adjusted by a seat adjustment drive and a steering wheel whose steering wheel position can be adjusted by a steering wheel adjustment drive, comprising a control unit that is configured to evaluate data relevant for a driving mode safety and to actuate the steering wheel adjustment drive with timing such that, before an anticipated accident event occurs, a movement of the steering wheel into an optimum steering wheel position for a vehicle driver in terms of safety equipment is initiated as a function of the current sitting position of the driver's seat.

Claim 11 (new): The safety device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the optimum steering wheel position in terms of safety equipment is reached before the occurrence of the anticipated accident event.

Claim 12 (new): The safety device as claimed in claim 10, wherein an optimum steering wheel position in terms of safety equipment is defined for each sitting position of the driver's seat and is stored in the control unit.

Claim 13 (new): The safety device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the sitting position of the driver's seat is defined by at least one of a vertical position of the driver's seat, a longitudinal position of the driver's seat, a backrest inclination and a seat cushion inclination.

Claim 14 (new): The safety device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the steering wheel position is defined by a steering wheel column inclination and a steering wheel column longitudinal setting.

Claim 15 (new): The safety device as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a knee protection device that is operatively related to the driver's seat and actuateable by the control unit, wherein the knee protection device is movable into an optimum knee protection position for the driver in terms of safety equipment as a function of the current sitting position of the driver's seat.

Claim 16 (new): The safety device as claimed in claim 10, wherein a vehicle occupant classification is provided for the driver's seat so that setting of the optimum steering wheel position in terms of safety equipment is able to be carried out additionally as a function of the vehicle occupant classification, including a function of at least one driver size and weight.

Claim 17 (new): The safety device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the data that is relevant for the driving mode safety comprises at least one of driving state variables, ambient data and evaluated driver activities.

Claim 18 (new): The safety device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the control unit is configured to move the steering wheel back again into an original steering wheel position thereof when the anticipated accident even does not occur.